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## US orders expulsion of Venezuelan consul

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States has declared the Venezuelan consul general in Miami persona non grata and ordered her expulsion, a State Department official said yesterday.

The Venezuelan embassy in Washington was notified of the action on Friday and Livia Acosta Noguera, the consul general, was given until January 10 to leave the country, said William Ostick, a State Department spokesman.

"In accordance with Article 23 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the department declared Ms Livia Acosta Noguera, Venezuelan consul general to Miami, to be persona non grata. As such, she must depart the United States by Jan-

uary 10," he said.

"We cannot comment on specific details behind the decision to declare Ms Acosta persona non grata at this time," he added in a statement.

The State Department had said last month it was looking into "very disturbing" allegations that Noguera was a participant in an alleged Iranian plot to launch cyber-attacks on sensitive US national security facilities.

The allegations were made in a documentary that aired on the Spanish-language television network Univision.

The US action comes as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad kicked off a Latin American tour in Caracas yesterday.

## Aruba Rocks with FAKKEL!

"Rockin' the Fakkel" declared the tee shirts of the Aruba Trading carnival group as they wended their way through the streets of Oranjestad for the inaugural parade of the 2012 Carnival season, Aruba's 58th organized and all-island tribute to good times, and the Fakkel rocked Aruba on Saturday night, January 7.

A bright, full moon shone down on the ten groups with their bands and followers, sometimes numbering over 1000, dancing down L.G. Smith Boulevard with this first



from band XC-Lanz

5. Flame - BACK TO THE 80'S named for band Flame
6. OPC- FLASHING MASCARADE ON THE STAR- with founding band Oreo

PARTY from band Impak

9. Pleasers & Teasers group - PINK PIRATES - band LE GROOVE
10. Aruba Trading- PARTY ROCKERS - with band NBO TBS Brassband and Super Dancers led the way with Aruba's Carnival Royalty, the queens, princes and panchos (jesters) of last year.

*Continued on page 4*



7. Dushi Carnival Group - D U S H I D A N C E PARTY - from- what else?- Dushi Band
8. Impak Masqueraders Carnival Group - MAD HATTERS TEA

casual, fun event finally ending well after midnight. The various groups revealed their themes for the several parades, jump-ups and contests that will take place over the next six weeks. They were:

1. TOB -ANGELS AND RED DEVILS with band Youth X-Treem - UPGRADE
2. Champagne Carnival Group -THE SWINNING SMURF with blue-painted band Tsunami
3. Majestic Carnival Group -INDIAN and band Delicious
4. XC-Lanz- XC-LANZ"GOES CURACAO

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## Aruba's Police Chief rebuts unwarranted criticism

ORANJESTAD -- Police Chief, Dolfi Richardson, remarked..."I don't understand the reason for the negative reactions..." Richardson reacted to the discussion that arose after the criticism levied by the SPA union regarding the fact that a Dutch police from Holland is to join the Aruba Police Force.

However, Dolfi Richardson firmly rebuts the criticism and finds it simply unwarranted. Contrary to the rumors, Richardson explained that the Dutch police in question is not coming to take a leadership position in the Aruba Police Force, but that he will be employed as a "Brigadier" (police sergeant). He will work specifically as a detective in the department of the investigation of administrative crimes.

On various occasions they tried to find candidates for this position from within the Aruba Police Force, but to no avail. According to the Aruba Police Chief, with the coming of this Dutch police, the Aruba Force will have acquired more in-house knowledge and skill with respect to administrative crimes and certain practices in business.

Richardson agreed that there are specific agreements

with the union, but that they are not breaking any of those agreements. He is convinced that they are doing everything possible to ensure that the Force is fully equipped and that all positions are adequately filled with qualified policemen. The agreement with the Union is that they will not employ police from the Netherlands to fill top level positions. Said positions will be reserved for our own local policemen to aspire to. For lower positions there is no objection for bringing in policemen to fill those posts. According to Richardson, that is exactly what he is doing.

Richardson was emphatic in his statement...."I'm responsible for providing safety for our community...and, by filling the Force with qualified people who have both knowledge and experience, we can accomplish the goal of ensuring safety to our community."

The Police Force plans to do everything possible this year to fill vacant posts. This, according to Richardson is necessary in order to maintain the high standard of quality service demanded from the Police Force by the Aruban community.

## "Santa" Marriott Care Foundation surprises local elementary schools



Elementary school book donation



Students of St. Anna enjoying christmas lunch

Recently, the Marriott Associate Care Foundation surprised 15 local elementary schools with brand new reading books before the holiday season.

Spread over the island, Care Foundation board members visited the elementary schools, donating 2,800 reading books for all ages worth a total of 45,000 Aruban florin. Students were excited and could not wait to open up the boxes with books.

In addition the Marriott Care Foundation helped the St. Anna School with their Christmas lunch celebration. The St. Anna School was relocated to a temporary location after the storm damaged the school building. All dressed up for the holidays over 290 elementary

students enjoyed a delicious Christmas buffet at the Indian Rock Garden.

The Aruba Marriott Care Foundation was founded in 1999 by the associates of the Aruba Marriott and has been actively contributing to the Aruba community for the past



13 years. It embodies a living and breathing sentiment and "Spirit to Serve" within the associates who fund the Foundation through direct financial contributions.



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## Safety Tips from the Police for Motorbike Users

ORANJESTAD -- In view of the recent Motorbike fatal accidents, the Police Force has issued re-minders regarding the law with respect to the security of operating motorbikes.

The recent fatalities has brought much suffering to the families and to others involved in the process of the incident as well as to the community in general. Hence, it is imperative that the Police Force remind us all of the importance of obeying the laws. The traffic laws are designed to protect our community of dangers, both physical danger and from damage to material. One of those exposed to more danger than any other is the operator of a motorbike. Of late, many have chosen to operate a motorbike, or ATV (the so-called Quad

Racers) and scooters. Some use these for pleasure, while there are those who use the motorbike to save money on gas. Still others use the motorbike to help protect the environment from more pollutants.

For whatever reason you are operating a motorbike, the fact is that there are many more two-wheeled vehicles on our public roads today.

The Police Force wants to remind us all that, if you operate a two-wheeled vehicle (motorbike):

1. the law (article 47 of the traffic law) says that you must wear a helmet for your own safety. This helm must also be one that fits properly on your head to offer adequate protection.

*Continued on page 5*

## Fior Nuñez wins Afl 20,000 florin, cash, with SETAR N.V.

Fior Nuñez became the lucky winner of the grand prize of SETAR NV's End of the Year campaign; a whopping 20,000 Arubian florins.

This drawing was the last one of the holiday campaign, following the in December, where SETAR officials picked 15 lucky winners of Afl. 1,000 cash, each.

The lucky winner was picked during the TeleAruba Carnaval program "Den Dje." SETAR Marketing Department executive made use of this opportunity to show off for the first time the new SETAR 2012 Carnaval t-shirt, on sale at all teleshops around the island.



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# Aruba Rocks with FAKKEL!

Continued from page 1



"Fakkel" is short for "Fakkeloptocht," Dutch for "Torch Parade," a beloved ritual that truly inaugurates Aruba's annual carnival season with style. Island tradition has evolved from the normal costumes to wearing logo tee shirts, at least for this parade, with a declaration of the group affiliation and theme, though participants are highly original in their modifications. These are accented by innovative make up and often, glowing or flashing accessories, geared to the nighttime ambience. Over 7200 participated in Saturday evening's event.

The next big parade will be on Sunday, January 22, in San Nicolas. The Balloon Parade focuses on youth, living up to its name with the creative use of colorful balloons, and is one of the cutest and most popular carnival events.

by Rosalie Klein





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## Safety Tips from the Police . . .

Continued from page 3

2. The helm must be properly secured on your head with a band under your chin. Hence it can not simply be resting on your head. It must be properly fastened.

3. This same law also states that the helm must be made of a durable material which can truly protect your head in the event of an accident. A full-faced helmet is advisable to better protect both your head and face. A good helm will protect your head in any accident situation.

4. Although not included in the law, but appropriate clothing is also necessary when operating a motorbike. If you can afford it, a good motorbike suit is highly recommended. If not, your clothing should be of such that help protect you against sever scratches if you fall on asphalt. Clothing with sponge filling will help lessen the impact of a fall. Leather boots are also preferable. Never barefoot, or with slippers, or in shorts. Raw back is worse than anything imaginable.



**Full faced helmet - highly recommended**

5. Operating a motorbike at night, the following is very important: Wear clothing of clear colors easily visible at night. White, neon yellow, neon orange and reflective material are always best. It is also advisable to affix reflective material on the bike. Place such material on the sides of the bike as well, so that should you fall off the bike at night other traffic will be able to see you and summons help.

6. Be sure that your tires are properly inflated and are in good condition.

7. Make every effort to avoid driving on wet roads. Even the manufactures of motorbikes advise against operating these bikes on wet surfaces. If you must travel on wet roads, use a dirt surface or rough soil or road with less

traffic and maintain a speed of no more than 50km/per hour.

8. By all means, never use a cellular while driving your motorbike! Switch off your cell or simply ignore any calls coming in while you're operating a motorbike.

9. Never use drugs or alcohol if you have to operate a motor vehicle, and this includes a motorbike!

10. Use extra caution when overtaking vehicles on the road, this is especially for vehicles in a traffic line up. Many accidents have occurred when overtaking vehicle in a line up. A door may suddenly open on you, or a vehicle may decide suddenly to jump out of line not realizing that you are approaching.

Each of these rules has one objective, and that is to protect you. But, if you fail to obey the rules you will suffer the ugly and painful consequences. The Police Force, therefore urges everyone to make a commitment to follow the rules for their own safety and for the safety of others.

Also, those with larger vehicles on our roads must be considerate of others, of motorbikes. Operators of automobiles need to be more respectful to motorbikes.



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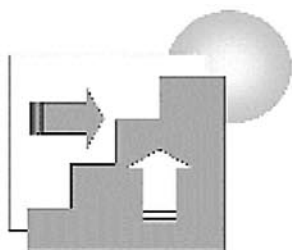
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- *CONVERSATIE PAPIAMENTS*  
(Beginners II)
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- *COMB. na PAPIAMENTO (Princ. II)*
- *COMB. na PAPIAMENTO (Avanza I)*  
Mester certificado di Principiante II
- *COMB. na INGLES (Principiante I)*
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y pa e cursonan Avanza III, mester  
tin diploma di e curso Avanza II.

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- *COMB. NA INGLES (Avanza III)*
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## US will respond if Iran blocks Strait of Hormuz

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States will respond if Iran tries to close the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf, US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta warned yesterday, saying such a move would cross a "red line."

Panetta was seconded by General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who said Iran has the means to close the waterway, through which 20 percent of the world's oil passes.

Their comments follow Iranian threats to close the strait if the European Union slaps an embargo on Iranian oil, the latest step in a US-led campaign to pressure Tehran to give up their nuclear program. Western powers suspects Iran is bent on gaining atomic weapons, which Tehran denies.

## Nigerian leader says unrest worse than 1960s civil war


ABUJA (AFP) - Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan said yesterday violence blamed on Islamist group Boko Haram was worse than the country's 1960s civil war, with sympathisers of the sect in government and security agencies, referring to Nigeria's 1967-70 civil war that killed more than a million people.

The death toll linked to violence blamed on the Islamist group has not reached anywhere near that level, but Jonathan cited the unpredictability and pervasiveness of the threat.

Describing the extent of the problem, he said Boko Haram members and sympathisers could be found throughout society, adding that "some of them are in the executive arm of government, some of them are in the parliamentary/legislative arm of government, while some of them are even in the judiciary."

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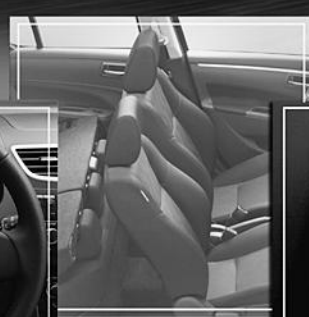

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## Health & Living

### Belgian doctors carry out country's first face transplant



A person holds a reproduction of a patient's skull with prosthesis at a press conference on the first facial composite tissue allotransplantation in Belgium. (AFP Photo)

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Belgian surgeons have successfully performed the country's first-ever face transplant, the 19th in the world, doctors announced Saturday.

Officials at the University Hospital of Ghent said a team of 65 surgeons and medical staff had performed the 20-hour operation a week earlier on a Belgian man with a severely mutilated face.

"He's fine, he's doing very well after six days," surgical team leader Phillip Blondeel told Belgian television. "He's already swallowed a little water."

Blondeel said the patient,

whose name was not disclosed, was already able to speak, surpassing doctors' expectations.

"We didn't think he would be able to speak so soon."

The patient had been missing skin around the central part of his face, as well as lips, facial muscles and nerves.

The operation brings to 19 the number of face transplants carried out worldwide. The first was a partial face transplant on Frenchwoman Isabelle Dinoire in 2005.

Belgium is the third European country after France and Spain to have carried out the operation.

### Great snooze foods that may give you sound sleep

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Tart Cheery Juice is rich in Melatonin, a sleep Hormone that regulates the sleeping patterns. Drink this juice, an 8 ounces in the Morning and 2 hours before going to bed at Night. To get full benefit of this drink, try to take it at the scheduled time every day.

#### Valerian Tea With Honey

A cup of Valerian Tea with Honey before going to bed is an old trend. This Tea contains Natural compounds that help to decrease the amount of time taken to fall asleep. The Glucose in Honey helps to relax while sleeping. The above mentioned are the few foods that helps in enjoying peaceful sleep.

**Try to avoid eating late at night; it is not a good habit because it forces your body and Brain to digest instead of taking rest. Avoid eating 3 hours before going to bed at night.**

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## Novartis recalls drugs in US

GENEVA (AFP) - Swiss pharmaceutical firm Novartis said Sunday it was recalling four different products sold over the counter in the United States over reports of a malfunction at one of its plants.

The affected drugs are Excedrin, NoDoz, Bufferin and Gas-X Prevention, Novartis Consumer Health (NCH) said in a statement.

"NCH is taking this action as a precautionary measure, because the products may contain stray tablets, cap-

sules, or caplets from other Novartis products, or contain broken or chipped tablets," it said.

"This could potentially result in overdose, interaction with other medications a consumer may be taking, or an allergic reaction if the consumer is allergic to the unintended ingredient," the statement said.

The group stressed however that it was not aware of adverse effects among the affected products' consumers.



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### Activists board Japanese whaling ship

SYDNEY (AFP) - The anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd said three Australian activists were being held as "prisoners" by the Japanese harpoon fleet Sunday after sneaking aboard one of their vessels overnight to protest.

Sea Shepherd said it had helped the three men from the Forest Rescue Australia environmental group to board the Shonan Maru No.2 16 miles (26 kilometres) off Australia's west coast.

Australian Attorney-General Nicola Roxon said Canberra was in contact with Tokyo to determine the Shonan Maru's exact location but no application had been made to bring the protesters ashore and they could end up in Japan.

### SCI-TECH

## Hawking defies science to reach 70th birthday, but misses celebration



CAMBRIDGE, United Kingdom (AFP) - British scientist Stephen Hawking was forced to miss a scientific debate to mark his 70th birthday Sunday because he was only discharged from hospital two days earlier.

As scientists and media gathered at Cambridge University for a symposium to mark Hawking's birthday, vice-chancellor Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz announced: "Stephen has been unwell and was only discharged from hospital on Friday."

Hawking, who was diagnosed with motor neurone disease aged 21, will follow the special symposium on "the state of the universe" via webcast, the vice-chancellor said.

Despite spending most of his life in a wheelchair and being able to speak only through a computer, the theo-

retical physicist's quest for the secrets of the universe has made him arguably the most famous scientist in the world.

When Hawking was diagnosed with the debilitating condition aged 21, he was given only a few years to live, but has defied medical opinion by reaching his eighth decade.

"I'm sure my disability has a bearing on why I'm well known," he once said. "People are fascinated by the contrast between my very limited physical powers, and the vast nature of the universe I deal with."

Much of his work has centred on bringing together relativity (the nature of space and time) and quantum theory

(how the smallest particles in the universe behave) to explain the creation of the universe and how it is governed.

In 1974, aged just 32, Hawking became one of the youngest fellows of Britain's prestigious Royal Society. Five years later he became Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, a post once held by Isaac Newton.

His fame moved beyond academia in 1988 with the publication of his book "A Brief History of Time", which explained the nature of the universe to non-scientists, and sold millions of copies worldwide.

Hawking's stardom was later cemented in cameos in "Star Trek" and "The Simpsons", where he tells the rotund Homer Simpson that he likes his theory of a "doughnut-shaped universe", and may have to steal it.

As Hawking's age advances, he could be at risk of losing his famous computerised voice due to the gradual loss of muscle control, his personal assistant said ahead of his birthday.

"His speech has got slower

and slower and on a bad day he can only manage about one word a minute," Judith Croasdel said in the Daily Telegraph.

"We think it may be because of the deterioration in his cheek muscle. We are looking to improve the situation and he needs to test out new technology."

Martin Rees, Britain's Astronomer Royal and a former president of the Royal Society, who first met Hawking when they were both research students, marvelled at his longevity.

He admitted that when they first met, "it was thought he might not live long enough to finish his PhD degree."

His survival made him a "medical marvel," Rees said, but stressed that it was his work that would prove his lasting legacy.

"His fame should not overshadow his scientific contributions because even though most scientists are not as famous as he is, he has undoubtedly done more than anyone else since Einstein to improve our knowledge of gravity."

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7.30 anochi na Bestuurskantoor San Nicolas

##### **COMPUTER voor BEGINNERS**

E curso ta ensera Hardware/Dos, Windows, Database, Spreadsheet, Wordprocessing. .

##### **COMPUTER: programa Microsoft EXCEL**

Si tin bastante interes lo duna curso den dia tambe.

##### **COMPUTER: programa Ms WORD**

##### **COMPUTER: programa QUICKBOOKS**

##### **COMPUTER: SIÑA TRAHA RIBA INTERNET**

##### **BOEKHOUDEN BEGINNERS**

E materia cu ta wordo usa ta for di e boeki di BKB y e lesnan ta na hulandes

##### **COMBERSACION NA PAPIAMENTO principiante II**

##### **COMBERSACION NA INGLES princ. II**

#### ORANJESTAD, DIAMARS 10 JANUARI

7.30 anochi na oficina di Ensenansa pa Empleo, Engelandstraat 33

##### **GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICE (GMP)/HAZARD ANALYSIS CRITICAL CONTROL POINT (HACCP)**

E curso aki ta bai trata tur loke tin haber cu food safety y higiena. E curso aki ta un rekisito pa esnan cu kier hanja un permiso pa restaurant, snackbar, snacktruck.

##### **WAITER/WAITRESS**

Un curso ta riba dialuna, diamars y e otro riba diaranson y diahuebs anochi. E curso ta dura ± 15 siman.

##### **BARTENDER**

Un curso ta riba dialuna, diamars y e otro riba diaranson y diahuebs anochi di 6.30'or pa 9.30'or. E curso ta dura 15 siman.

##### **INDUSTRIA TURISTICA**

E curso aki lo trata temanan cu tin di haber cu nos isla Aruba.

#### O'STAD, DIARANSON 11 JANUARI

7.30 anochi na Ensenansa pa Empleo, Engelandstraat 33

##### **COMPUTER voor BEGINNERS**

E curso ta ensera Hardware/Dos, Windows, Database, Spreadsheet, Wordprocessing.

##### **COMPUTER: programa Microsoft EXCEL**

##### **COMPUTER: programa Microsoft WORD**

##### **COMPUTER: programa QUICKBOOKS**

##### **COMPUTER: programa Ms. POWERPOINT**

**COMPUTER: programa AUTOCAD 2**  
Mester tin diploma di e curso Autocad 1.

#### ORANJESTAD, DIAHUEBS 12 JANUARI

7.30 anochi na Ensenansa pa Empleo, Engelandstraat 33

##### **MARKETING 1**

E curso ta dura 13 siman y tin les un bes pa siman. E curso lo trata e topico di Mercadeo.

##### **MARKETING 2**

E curso lo dura 13 siman y mester tin certificado di Marketing 1 pa sigui e curso aki.

##### **COMBERSACION NA PORTUGES Princ.**

##### **COMBERSACION NA PORTUGES Avanza I**

##### **HORTICULTURA/PERMACULTURE**

E curso aki ta pa sinja e personanan cu ta interesa den plantamento (mata)

##### **INLEIDING ARUBAANS RECHT 1**

E curso aki ta bai trata leynan laboral di Aruba, pa asina por tin miho comprendemento entre donjo di trabao y e trahado.

##### **INLEIDING ARUBAANS RECHT 2**

E curso aki ta sigi esun prome.

#### **BASIC LIFE SUPPORT**

E curso aki ta inclui CPR, First Aid, AED (Defibrilador Automatico) pa asisti caso di emergencia tanto pa grandi como chiquito. (babysitters, Enfermero). Por hasi re-cert tambe y ta certifica di AHA. (American Heart Ass.)

#### ORANJESTAD, DIALUNA 16 JANUARI

7.30 anochi na Ensenansa pa Empleo, Engelandstraat 33

##### **CARPINTE FINI**

Pa sigi e curso aki mester a hasi Carpinte shop of a sigi LTS den carpinteria,

##### **Storeroom Keeper/ F & B Cost Control**

E curso ta 2 anochi pa siman.

##### **METSLA**

E curso aki ta sigi e curso prome.

##### **KLEIN VAARBEWIJS (Licencia pa embarcacion chikito)**

E licencia aki ta valido pa:

1. Embarcacionnan di largura di 12 te 20 meter, cu excepcion di remolcador (tugboat of sleepboot) y embarcacionnan destina pa uso di transportacion comercial di mercancia cu un capacidad di 15 ton of mas, of pa transporta un of mas persona contra pago.
  2. Botonan di motor rapido cu no ta usa den combinacion cu skinan acuatico.
- Tin dos curso pa siman. Un ta riba dialuna y diamars y e otro curso ta riba diaranson y diahuebs. Les ta dura 6 siman.

##### **BOEKHOUDEN BEGINNERS**

E materia cu ta wordo usa ta for di e boeki di BKB y e lesnan ta na hulandes

##### **BOEKHOUDEN GEV. I**

Mester a sigui Boekhouden Beginners. Ta trata aki e di dos parti di e boeki di BKB.

#### **E CURSONAN LO CUMINSA DEN LUNA DI FEBRUARI 2012 (despues di Carnaval).**

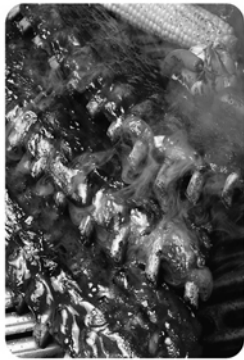
E cursonan ariba menciona ta dirigi ariba practica, Pa mas informacion por jama telefon 5825662 of acudi personalmente na oficina di Ensenansa pa Empleo, Engelandstraat 33, Eagle.

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## Finance

### Cameron: EU-wide financial tax would harm Europe

LONDON (AFP) - British Prime Minister David yesterday he would block any attempt to introduce an EU-wide financial transaction tax because he fears it will harm jobs and prosperity in Europe.

Cameron said countries such as France pushing for the introduction of such a levy were welcome to go ahead and introduce it within their own borders.

But implementing a tax in the European Union when countries in the rest of the world were not bound by it would have a negative effect on jobs and prosperity in Europe, he said.

"If the French themselves want to go ahead with a transactions tax in their own country then they should be free to

do so," Cameron said.

"But the idea of a transactions tax put in place only in Europe that doesn't include other jurisdictions, what that would do is it would cost jobs, it would cost us tax revenue, it would be bad for the whole of Europe.

Britain fears that if a financial transaction tax is introduced across the 27-nation EU, then banks and financial institutions operating in London would leave and move to countries such as Switzerland or China to avoid it.

Such fears about the powers of the City of London financial district being curbed were behind Cameron's veto of a new EU-wide treaty change to tackle the eurozone crisis at a Brussels summit in December.

### Better deal mulled for foreign euro fund investors

BERLIN (AFP) - The head of the eurozone's bailout fund is considering offering foreign investors a better deal in a bid to improve sluggish demand, a German newspaper reported yesterday.

Klaus Regling, who runs the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), is mulling plans to offer investors outside the eurozone an insurance of 30 percent against a possible default, the Bild am Sonntag weekly said.

Without citing sources, the paper quoted Regling as telling a meeting of German parliamentarians last week that the current 20 percent guarantees offered were "too low" to cover investors' risk.

A temporary fund, the 440 billion euro (\$560 billion) EFSF uses guarantees issued by

eurozone governments to raise funds on money markets which are then lent to debt-wracked eurozone countries such as Ireland, Portugal and Greece.

However, raising the guarantees offered to investors would reduce the firepower of the fund, already considered

far too small to intervene if the debt crisis were to claim a larger victim such as Italy.

European governments had hoped the fund would enjoy broad support in cash-rich countries such as China, but enthusiasm thus far has been muted.

### Mercedes, Nissan in U.S. engine tie-up

BERLIN (AFP) - Japanese auto giant Nissan and German luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz yesterday announced a tie-up to produce engines in the United States, hailed as their biggest joint project outside Europe.

The two auto firms will jointly produce Mercedes-Benz four-cylinder gasoline engines at an assembly plant in Decherd in the southern US state of Tennessee.

Production was expected to begin in 2014, with 250,000

engines being rolled out annually when the plant is up to full capacity, a statement said.

"This is the newest milestone in our pragmatic collaboration and our most significant project outside of Europe so far," said Renault-Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn.

Daimler and Nissan, which has been in partnership with French automaker Renault for more than a decade, already announced in spring 2010 that they would team up on compact cars.



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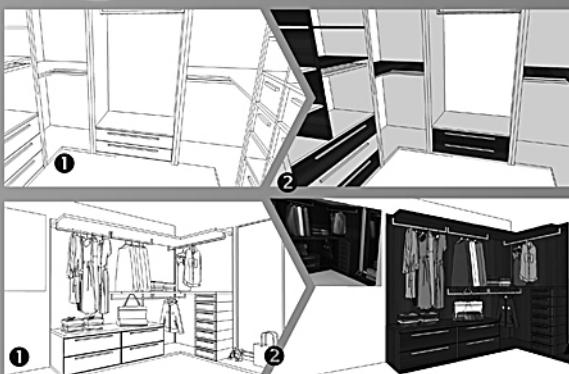
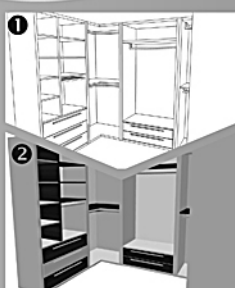
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## Pop diva Beyonce gives birth to girl: reports



NEW YORK (AFP) - US pop diva Beyonce has given birth to a girl named Ivy Blue Carter, media reports said. The baby and mother are

doing well.

The New York Daily News reports the singer checked into Lenox Hill Hospital on Manhattan's upper East Side on Friday night under the name "Ingrid Jackson."

Beyonce and her husband, hip-hop star Jay-Z, rented out the hospital's entire fourth floor for \$1.3 million, the report said.

On Saturday night, people were seen bringing bags of food and bottles of red wine onto the heavily guarded hospital wing, apparently for celebrations, The Daily News noted.

Several security guards were spotted patrolling the perimeter of the hospital, the paper said.

There has been no official confirmation of the birth.

## Kirsten Dunst & Brad Pitt Crowned Best Actors by National Society of Film Critics

There ain't no melancholy for Melancholia star Kirsten Dunst and Moneyball, Tree of Life actor Brad Pitt!

The National Society of Film Critics honored the two stars Saturday at its 46th annual awards as Best Actress and Best Actor, as well as naming Dunst's Melancholia, directed by iconoclast Lars von Trier, as Best Picture.

Dunst's role in the end-of-the-world drama continues to look like an Oscar contender—the actress took Best Actress for the role at Cannes before getting the Critics nod Saturday, beating out Yun Jung-hee for her role in Poetry and Meryl Streep in The Iron Lady.

As for the allegorical film itself, Melancholia topped Pitt's and Sean Penn's Tree of Life to be honored as Best Picture by the group.

## New book describes tension over US first lady



### President Obama, accompanied by First Lady Michelle Obama

WASHINGTON (AFP) - new book detailing life in the White House describes high tension under the tenure of Barack Obama as First Lady Michelle Obama struggled with his top aides over the direction of his presidency.

She "cherished the idea of her husband as a transformational figure" but battled with White House advisors on compromise deals he had cut with Republicans, growing frustrated that he was being

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viewed as an "ordinary politician," according to the book out last week by journalist Jodi Kantor.

The New York Times writer, who said she has interviewed some 30 current and former Obama employees along with friends of the couple, paints a picture of the First Lady struggling to find her footing within the White House ever since she moved to Washington with her husband and two daughters in 2009.

Crisis erupted, according to Kantor, from extracts of the book, in early 2010 when Michelle Obama felt the administration had cut too many deals compromising her husband's signature health care reform legislation.

Obama's then-top adviser

Rahm Emanuel denied "he had grown frustrated with Mrs. Obama, but other advisers described a grim situation: a president whose agenda had hit the rocks, a first lady who disapproved of the turn the White House had taken, and a chief of staff who chafed against her influence."

Key to the first lady's frustration was anxiety "about the gap between her vision of

her husband's presidency and the reality of what he could deliver," Kantor wrote in the book, titled "The Obamas."

The first lady had sought to involve herself in promoting the president's agenda, but advisers, wary of a similar situation under president Bill Clinton where his wife Hillary attempted to promote a health care in the 1990s, "mostly declined her offer."

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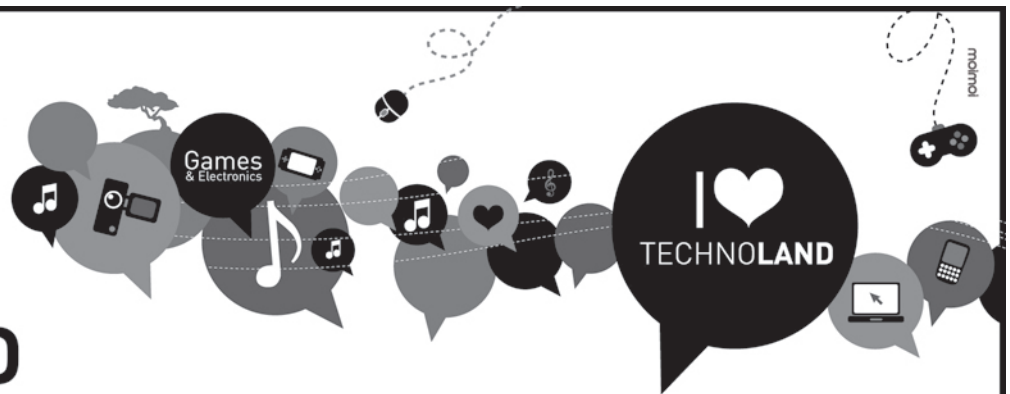
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## Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their

"home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town

Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All



homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every

way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## Manning powers Giants over Falcons

NEW YORK (AFP) - Eli Manning threw three touchdown passes, two of them to Hakeem Nicks, and the New York Giants advanced to the second round of the NFL playoffs on Sunday with a 24-2 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

Manning completed 23-of-32 passes for 277 yards while Nicks caught six passes for 115 yards as the Giants won the first playoff game in their new stadium and their first home playoff triumph since 2000.

"It's special. It's a big win," Manning said. "The defense came out awesome and we were able to get some things going in the second half."

The Giants booked a second-round visit next Sunday to defending champion Green Bay, a 38-35 winner at New York last month, while New Orleans goes to San Francisco next Saturday in the other National Conference playoff matchup.

"They are a great team," Manning said of the Packers, who lost only once this season. "We played them tough. We have to give it our all. The defense will have to continue to play well and we'll have to make some big plays."

Pittsburgh meets Denver



**Eli Manning #10 of the New York Giants runs off of the field after the Giants won 24-2 against Atlanta Falcons**

later Sunday in the last first-round playoff game with the winner to visit New England next Saturday. Houston will travel to Baltimore next Sunday in the other American Conference second-round game.

The Giants' defense, ranked among the NFL's worst against the pass despite finishing third in quarterback sacks, shut down 4,000-yard passer Matt Ryan and sent Atlanta home after one play-off game for the second season in a row.

New York's Lawrence Tynes kicked a 22-yard field goal 7:09 into the third quarter, capping an 11-play, 72-yard drive to give the Giants a 10-2 lead.

Just 5:07 later, Manning flipped a short pass to Nicks

over the middle and the elusive receiver evaded Atlanta defenders for 68 yards to finish a 72-yard touchdown pass play, the longest ever for Nicks, and boost New York's lead.

Manning connected with Mario Manningham on a 27-yard touchdown pass with 9:55 remaining to create the final margin.

Manning also flipped a four-yard touchdown pass to Nicks with 2:47 remaining in the second quarter that gave the Giants a 7-2 half-time lead.

Brandon Jacobs scampered down the right sideline 34 yards, his longest run of the season, and converted on a fourth-down with a 1-yard rush up the middle to set up the first touchdown.

Manning was whistled for intentionally grounding a pass from his own end zone 76 seconds into the second quarter, giving Atlanta a safety for a 2-0 lead.

Atlanta defender James Sanders had wrapped his arms around the Giants' quarterback to prompt the hurried throw that brought the penalty and produced the only points for the Falcons.

### Top three win to escape chasing pack

ROME (AFP) - AC Milan, Juventus and Udinese all won on Sunday to put daylight between themselves and the pack in the Serie A title race.

Milan won 2-0 at Atalanta to remain level on points with Juve, who beat Lecce 1-0, but Udinese are just two points back after they thumped 10-man Cesena 4-1 earlier in the day.

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## Tough Love keeps Wizards winless



**Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Love (42) goes to the basket against Washington Wizards power forward Trevor Booker, right, during the first half**  
WASHINGTON (AFP) - Kevin Love scored 20 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to power the Minnesota Timber-

wolves over Washington 93-72 on Sunday, keeping the Wizards the NBA's only winless team this season.

Spanish guard Ricky Rubio came off the bench to contribute 13 points and 14 assists for the T-Wolves, who improved to 3-5 and avoided a loss that would have matched them for the Western Conference cellar.

The Wizards, who fell to 0-8, were led by 14 points from Nick Young and reserve Trevor Booker.

Washington, already off to the worst start in franchise history, will try to end the win drought at home Tuesday against Toronto before road games against a pair of division leaders on Wednesday at Chicago and Friday at Philadelphia.

The Timberwolves, ahead by only three after the first quarter, seized a 48-34 half-time lead behind 10 points from Love and nine by Rubio and cruised in the second half.

Derrick Williams added 14 points and seven rebounds for Minnesota.

## Maradona attacks "traitor" Leonardo

PARIS (AFP) - Argentinian football legend Maradona has unleashed an astonishing attack on Paris Saint Germain sporting director Leonardo, questioning the Brazilian's motives at the Qatari-backed French club.

"I don't really understand Leonardo. I didn't understand him when he moved from AC Milan to Inter, and I understand even less what he's doing at PSG, whether he's a player, a manager, an agent or an oil tycoon. I don't understand."

Maradona, now manager with United Arab Emirates side Al Wasl, added in the interview with Canal+: "He is

proof that in football nowadays it pays to know how to lobby.

"I don't like people who stoop to flatter to get along - I don't like one bit Leonardo's position.

"Up to now we haven't seen his approach in the game. You don't do this type of thing, to move from AC Milan to Inter, it's like going from Boca (Juniors) to River (Plate) - it's traitorous.

"But traitors survive, and sign contracts with people who have lots of money like those who have bought PSG.

"So in this case I'm the one who is wrong and Leonardo is right."

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## Cruyff backs Messi to win seven Ballon d'Or awards

MADRID (AFP) - Dutch legend Johan Cruyff on Sunday backed Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi to win up to seven Ballon d'Or awards in his career.

"Messi will be the player to win the most Ballons d'Or in history. He will win five, six, seven. He is incompara-

ble. He's in a different league," former Barcelona player and coach Cruyff told Ole newspaper.

Messi will find out on later today if he has become the first man since Michel Platini to win the Ballon d'Or for three years running when the winner of the 2011 award is announced at a

ceremony in Zurich.

The 24-year-old Barcelona superstar won the inaugural FIFA Ballon d'Or - a combination of the France Football Ballon d'Or prize and FIFA's World Player of the Year award -- last year, having picked up both awards in 2009.

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## Tiger's ex-coach Haney writes tell-all book

NEW YORK (AFP) - "The Big Miss", a tell-all book detailing Hank Haney's six years serving as swing coach for golf star Tiger Woods, is set to go on sale March 27, barely a week before the Masters tees off.

A synopsis of the book on the Random House Incorporated website described Haney as being impressed by the work ethic of Woods.

But it also noted how Haney saw the 14-time major champion was fearful of "the big miss", a woeful shot that would doom his chances on a hole or in a tournament.

And it mentions Haney's observations on how Woods used a variety of tactics to keep people from getting too close to him.

Woods was 28 when he asked Haney to coach him in March of 2004. Haney said he spent 110 days a year with Woods, staying at the Woods home more than 30 days a year to see him in relaxed moments with then-wife Elin as well as on the golf course.

Woods, chasing the all-time record of 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus, won six majors while working with Haney, including the 2005

Masters and British Open, the 2006 British Open and PGA Championship, the 2007 PGA and the 2008 US Open.

After going more than two years without a victory since his infamous sex scandal, Woods snapped his drought last month with a triumph at the World Challenge, an 18-man event that benefits his charity foundation.

Woods served as an honorary captain for Stanford University's American football team in a 41-38 overtime loss to Oklahoma State in the Fiesta Bowl gridiron matchup last week. Woods attended Stanford for two years before his 1996 pro debut.


Woods, nagged by injuries the past two seasons but healthy now, will open his 2012 campaign on January 26 at the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship against such rivals as England's World No. 1 Luke Donald, US Open champion Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland and defending champion Martin Kaymer of Germany.

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